

a charge transfer portion formed to confront the second side of the gate portion, wherein the readout gate width of said gate portion is wider at the first side confronting said light receiving portion than at the second side confronting said charge transfer portion.

2. (Amended) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said readout gate width narrows linearly from said light receiving portion toward said charge transfer portion.

3. (Amended) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said gate portion comprises a first gate portion having a first readout gate width of which is narrower from said light receiving portion toward said transfer portion, and a second gate portion having a second readout gate width that is constant from said first gate portion towards said charge transfer portion.

4. (Amended) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said photoelectric converter is constructed as an imaging apparatus in which said light receiving portion includes a plurality of pixels and said charge transfer portion includes a plurality of charge coupled devices.

5. (Amended) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said light receiving portion includes photodiodes.

Please add new claims 6-10 as follows:

6. (New) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said readout gate width narrows curvedly from said light receiving portion toward said charge transfer portion.

7. (New) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said readout gate width narrows gradually from said light receiving portion toward said charge transfer portion.

8. (New) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said charge transfer portion includes charge coupled devices electrically connected along a vertical axis of the photoelectric converter and disposed adjacent to the gate portion.

9. (New) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said gate portion comprises a barrier gate portion and a readout gate portion having the first and the second sides of the gate portion, the barrier portion is disposed between said charge transfer portion and said light receiving portion and has a tapered side defined by the readout gate width of the readout gate portion.

10. (New) The photoelectric converter according to claim 1, wherein said gate portion substantially prevents leaking of a charge held by the light receiving portion when said gate portion is in an OFF state.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-5 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1-5 were amended and claims 6-10 were added. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are at issue in the above-identified application.

**I. Objection to Drawings**

The Examiner stated that Figures 4A-7 should be designated by a legend, such as --Prior Art--, because only that which is old is illustrated. Accordingly, Applicants have corrected the respective figures as part of the proposed changes to be incorporated into new drawings shown in red and submitted with this Amendment. In accordance with the Rules, following the Notice of Allowance Applicant will submit formal drawings that correct these informalities.